*825 In the northern chuckawalla, the female is supposed to have lesser ridges than does the male but this is an exception. In all other cases, the sole possessor of this characteristic is the male. This, of course, is not so in nature, but it shows that certain structures are supposed to indicate male sex. It is also clear that this particular trait is associated with the lizards and in a way represents a kind of taxonomic character the Seri tend to associate with the male lizards.

The only other trait employed exclusively refers to the toad. Here the male is supposed to have "dos huevos," two eggs, outside, the same feature the Seris associate with the male of the mammals.

It is interesting that no structural differences were suggested for the side-winder.

Age

The age of reptiles and amphibians is really a great mystery to the Seri. Although they have given some sort of answer for 19 species in the list and for 16 they suggested definite length of life for the animal (for the other three they didn't know), no reliable replies suggesting anything else than the individual idiosyncracies of the informants could be established. The informants showed a distinct tendency to provide pat answers for all sorts of creatures. This tendency appears to be associated with the age. The younger informants usually gave brief prospective age of various species; the older ones gave longer age. Thus, Moreno, for example, usually gave hypothetical age of larger species as say 5-6 years while Chico Romero or Ramon Montanyo for the same species gave 70 or 80 years respectively. It is interesting that the two last men are close to the age indicated for the animals.

The only general tendency that could be established is a gradient of relationship between the size and longevity of the animal. The larger the beast, the longer it lives.

Seasonality to some extent enters here. Thus two of the informants said of the side-winder that "perhaps it dies with the cold season" although others thought it lived a long time. Similar suggestions had been made for a couple of species of lizards. It is clear that absence of such small creatures during the cold season must suggest to the Seri their early demise.

In one case, a definite manner of establishing age of an animal has been suggested. In the western diamondback and the side-winder, the age, the Seris think, can be established by counting the rattles on the tail. This belief is widespread among the Mexicans and it may well be that it represents an increment from the influence of the Spanish-Mexican culture. [177]

Size and Weight

Seris' ideas of the size of reptiles is remarkably accurate. Time after time they made very correct estimates of the size which the animal can reach. They expressed this as a rule with a hand motion indicating the size of the animal. The accuracy is not surprising, because they see these animals [804]

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